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Mercer Island High School Profile 2008-2009

MIHS PURPOSE

The purpose of Mercer Island High School is to provide students with challenging educational activities and experiences that encourage students to reach their individual potential.

The Community

Mercer Island, an island community located in the south end of Lake Washington, is linked to Seattle, a metropolitan city of approximately 579,000, by a one and one-half mile floating bridge (I-90). The other side of the island is linked to Bellevue, a city of approximately 117,000, by a short bridge across the "East Channel." The city of Mercer Island is primarily a residential area for approximately 22,000 people, most of whom are employed in professional and managerial positions in business and industry in Seattle and the surrounding areas. There are two business and shopping districts on the island, with the larger located on the north end just off Interstate 90. The 6.25 square miles that comprise Mercer Island are wooded and provide 15 miles of waterfront. Residents are religiously diverse and philanthropic.

The High School

The Mercer Island School District has one comprehensive high school, one middle school, three elementary schools and Crest Learning Center, an alternative high school program. Crest grades are housed on the MIHS transcript. Local private and parochial school students also matriculate to Mercer Island High School. 94% of high school age students on Mercer Island attend Mercer Island High School. There are approximately 4,045 students attending school in the district, of which approximately 1,382 are in grades

9-12 at Mercer Island High School. There are 362 seniors in the Class of 2009. On time graduation rate is 95%. The ethnic breakdown of the student body is as follows:

African American 1.1% First Nations .3%
Asian 18.1% White 77.4% Hispanic 2.1%

Honors and Awards

- **US Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award:** In September 2006, Mercer Island High School received the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award from the US Department of Education. Mercer Island High School was chosen because our students consistently achieve in the top 10 percent on the *Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)*, the state assessment commensurate with *No Child Left Behind*. (WASL results are listed on page 3).
- According to an annual study produced by **Washington Public Baccalaureate Institutions**, Mercer Island High School graduates in the years of 2003, 2004, 2005 who matriculated to the University of Washington needed no English or Math remediation
- 12 Mercer Island School District teachers earned **National Board Teacher Certification**
- **2006-07 Seattle Times School Guide** rated MIHS as the #1 public high school in Washington for quality of college preparation for its students.
- The Chief State School Officers and **Standard & Poors** identified Mercer Island School District as one of six "Outperforming Districts" in Washington for the second year in a row.
- **The Manhattan Institute** ranked MIHS #1 nationally for the percentage of students who graduated "on time".
- MIHS Wind Ensemble was selected as the **WIAA Academic Champions** for having the highest average GPA in the state.

Curriculum Features

Advanced Placement: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition (blocked with Humanities Honors Social Studies), Comparative Government and Politics (blocked with Honors English 12), Psychology, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Spanish Language, French Language, Calculus AB, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Studio Art

Honors: American Studies English 11, American Studies Social Studies 11, English 12 (Blocked with AP Comparative Government/Politics), Humanities Honors Social Studies (blocked with AP English Literature and Composition), Chemistry 2, Physics 2, Mandarin Chinese 4

American Studies: This two-hour block integrates American Literature, American History and current events. It is intended to strengthen students' understanding of literary, social and historical events. A thematic curriculum attempts to identify, analyze and question the unique qualities of American thought and literature. Important American writers such as Twain, Steinbeck, Crane, Miller, Fitzgerald and the works of minority authors are examined.

Humanities: This two-hour honors course fulfills the two semester senior Social Studies requirement and two semesters of English. The broad purpose of the Humanities year-long elective is to expose students to the canon of Western literature and philosophy. Students read, discuss, and write extensively about the ideas of the most influential philosophers, poets, playwrights, and novelists from Greek antiquity to the modern age. Team-taught by faculty from the English and Social Studies departments, students are encouraged to find relationships between the philosophical and literary texts that they are reading and the historical context in which these writings developed. Students should expect a classroom environment that simulates a college-level course.

AP Comparative Government & English 12 Honors block: This two-hour honors/AP course fulfills the two semester senior Social Studies requirement and two semesters of English. AP students are exposed to several great works of contemporary world literature and explore issues and concepts of Contemporary World History. They look at Philosophy, Psychology, Economics, Political Science, and Religion. By analyzing, discussing, and writing about these works, students make discoveries about themselves and the world.

World Cultures: This integrated approach introduces students to events and concepts in world history and literature. The curriculum requires students to identify, analyze and question broad themes found throughout human civilization. Current events projects may also be included. The course is integrated over two periods, allowing students to investigate questions from both literary and historical frames of reference. Students earn 1 credit each in English and World History.

University of Washington Credit: Spanish 103 and Spanish 201 are University of Washington credit courses **not needed for graduation from the Mercer Island High School and should, therefore, not be considered to be "dual enrollment" courses.** Earned grades and credits will be posted on the Mercer Island High School transcript but students will also order an official transcript to be sent from UW to the receiving college. **Math 126 is NOT a dual credit course** and not necessary for graduation from Mercer Island High School. It is 'multi variable calculus' and earns UW credit only. It is not affiliated with MIHS curriculum and is not housed on the MIHS transcript. A separate UW official transcript will be forwarded showing math credits earned.

Graduation Requirements

Students must earn a total of 21 credits to graduate. One-half credit is earned for each semester class completed with a grade of D or higher. Credits must be distributed as follows:

Courses & Credits		Totals
English 3.0	Science 2.0	Total required 13.5
Social Studies 2.5	P.E./Health 2.0	Total elective 7.5
Mathematics 2.0	Fine Arts 1.0	Min. requirement 21
Career/Tech Ed 1.0		

Rank Policy: Class rank is determined by accumulative, **unweighted** grade point average. All 9-12 grades are included in GPA and rank. Mainstreamed Special Education students, ESL students and Crest (our alternative school) grades are housed on our transcript and therefore computed in class rank. Grades earned from community colleges and local private tutoring/teaching institutions are also included in our GPA and rank.

MIHS Test Score Information

WASL

Washington Assessment of Student Learning; % of students meeting state standard

Year	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
2006	97.4	85.1	95.5	74.9
2007	93.9	85.4	95.3	81.3
2008	95.6	86.1	93.5	82.0

PLAN

# Tested	Class	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
		54	08 21.6	23.3	22.2	22.5
99	09	22.7	25.2	22.4	23.7	23.7
108	10	22.6	25.5	22.7	23.4	23.7

PSAT/NMSQT

# Tested	Class	Mean Scores
229	2007	Critical Reading 57.2; Math 58.2; Writing 59.0
269	2008	Critical Reading 55.8; Math 58.5; Writing 53.9
232	2009	Critical Reading 57.1; Math 61.1; Writing 55.5

- **Siemens Advanced Placement High School Award:** Recent nomination based on consistent performance on AP courses and exams in math and science.
- **MIHS Marching Band:** 270 strong, performed in the 2006 Tournament of Roses Parade.
- **MIHS Symphonic Orchestra:** Won the Gold Award and the Adjudicator's Trophy in spring of 2006.
- **MIHS 2006 and 2007 Chess Team:** Won the state Championship!
- **MIHS DECA Team:** Over the past 10 years has consistently sent approximately 30 students to state and 12-15 to international level competitions; Advertising Campaigns, International Business, Marketing Research Manuals, Graphics, Retail Marketing Events, Hospitality Events
- **Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theater High School Musical Theater Awards:** 2004-2005 *Candide* Outstanding Direction, five additional nominations. 2005-06 *The Cradle Will Rock*; Outstanding Educational Impact, Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast, Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Musical Direction, five other nominations.
- **MIHS Athletes: Athletic Awards 2007-2008**
Boys Golf—*Kingco Champs (Tyson Peters – Coach of the Year), 4th place State;* **Boys Water Polo**—*League Title, State Champions;* **Girls Swim**—*Kingco, District Champs, 2nd Place AAA State Meet;* **Volleyball**—*Kingco Champs, 2nd Place Districts;* **Boys Basketball**—*Kingco Champs;* **Boys Swim/Dive**—*Kingco, District, AAA State Champs, State Academic Champs;* **Wrestling**—*State Academic Champs;* **Boys Soccer**—*Kingco Champs, 3rd Place AAA State;* **Boys LAX**—*League Title, 2nd Place LAX State;* **Girls LAX**—*3rd Place State;* **Girls Water Polo**—*2nd Place State Finals*
- **National Honor Society:** Currently includes 360 members, 280 who have been members since the end of their sophomore year.

No individual academic awards are given to students prior to graduation, including Honor Roll.

High School Academic Day

The school day is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and includes seven class periods of 50 minutes. A standard school day is six periods, although students may choose to take seven classes. Classes meet four times a week with one day being a 105 minute “double” period block. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday schedules include 50 minute and 105 minute periods. All classes meet on Mondays and Fridays.

Accreditation

Mercer Island High School is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and meets all requirements and standards established by the State of Washington.

The Faculty

With a full and part-time classroom teaching staff of 79, the school is staffed at approximately 1:17. Of the 91 certified staff members, 56 have been on the staff more than four years. 74 faculty members have Masters Degrees and 2 have a Doctorate.

Counseling Department

There are four full-time counselors and one full-time college counselor, which results in a counselor-student ratio of 1:276. The assignments are:

A-D Susie Brown
E-K Susan Sutherin
L- R Deborah Kraft
S- Z Laurel Green
College Mj Hillstrom
Registrar..... Linda Scalzo, Barb Shephard
CC Secretary..... Sheryl Ehrlichman
CC Secretary..... Debbie McKenzie
Counseling Center PHONE (206) 236-3354
Counseling Center FAX (206) 230-6352

Counseling Department Affiliations:

Mercer Island High School is a member of: College Board; National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC and PNACAC)) and complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice; Washington Counselor Association; American Association of School Counselors; Washington Association of School Counselors; College Board Regional Council and ACT State Council.

High School Grading Procedures

The academic year is divided into two semesters of two quarters each. Mid-semester grades are given at the end of the first and third quarters, and semester grades are assigned at the end of the second and fourth. Semester grades become part of the student's permanent record and determine a cumulative grade point average. The grading structure follows the standard Washington State high school transcript pattern:

A = 4.0	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	F = 0.0
A- = 3.7	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	P = Pass
	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7		
NC = No credit				
Passing mark is D		INC = Incomplete		
W = Dropped Class		IP = In Progress		

All classes are graded, weighted equally, and calculated in grade point averages. Distribution of cumulative GPA for the Class of '08 on a 4.00 scale was: top quarter - 3.73, second quarter – 3.43, third quarter – 3.05. The final class average was 3.26. At student's request, traditional high school courses (e.g. Algebra 1 and Plain Geometry) taken in middle school are included on MIHS transcripts and are always included in the cumulative GPA and rank.

SAT I

# Tested	Class	Mean Scores	Mid-50%
338	2006	Math-607 Critical Reading-577 Writing-572	540-680 510-640 500-640
301	2007	Math-611 Critical Reading-589 Writing-572	510-670 510-649 510-650
328	2008	Math-614 Critical Reading-584 Writing-573	550-680 520-640 520-640

ACT

# Tested	Class of:	Mean Composite
122	2006	25.7
145	2007	26.8
210	2008	26.2

National Merit Scholars

	Finalists	Commended Scholars
Class of 2007	15	13
Class of 2008	12	29
Class of 2009	12 Semifinalists	31

AP Test Results

Year	# Tested	Tests Taken	AP Scores 3 and above
2006	288	437	311
2007	232	402	293
2008	328	572	393

AP Scholars

2008 AP Testing:

36 AP Scholars; 12 Scholars with Honor; 8 Scholars with Distinction

2008 National Hispanic Scholars: 2

College Placement

92% of the graduates of the Class of '08 had plans to continue their education, 86% at a 4-year institution and 6% at a 2-year school. Of the college-bound students, 48% went out-of-state. Students from the class of '08 are attending 110 different colleges and universities across the nation and world. Of the 110 colleges, 114 are private institutions. Some of the schools are: Amherst, Barnard, Bates, Boston U, Bowdoin, Bryn Mawr, Brown, BYU, Carnegie Mellon, Cal Poly, Chapman, Claremont McKenna, Colby, Colgate, Colorado College, Concordia, Dartmouth, Deep Springs, Duke, Elon, George Washington U, Georgetown, Gonzaga, Gordon, Hamilton, Harvard, Hillsdale, Hofstra, Hope, Johns Hopkins, Kenyon, Linfield, Long Island U, Loyola Marymount, Manhattanville, Marymount, McGill, Middlebury, MIT, Mount

Holyoke, Northeastern, Northwestern, Oberlin, Occidental, Pacific Lutheran, Parsons School of Design, Pitzer, Princeton, Reed, Rice, Rochester Inst of Technology, Santa Clara, Sarah Lawrence, Scripps, Seattle U, Seattle Pacific U, Smith, Stanford, St Mary's, Sweet Briar, Trinity College of Dublin Ireland, Tufts, UCLA, U Chicago, U Colorado, U Denver, U Michigan, U Minnesota, U Redlands, U Portland, USD, USC, USF, US Naval Academy, Union, Victoria U of New Zealand, Wake Forest, Washington U in St Louis, Wheaton, Whitman, Willamette, Williams and Yale in addition to many out-of-state public and the 6 Washington Public Colleges.

Other Programs

Crest Learning Center: Crest Learning Center is Mercer Island High School's alternative program. The staff of seven adults works to create a learning environment which meets the needs of a diverse population of about 115 students. The curriculum at Crest is designed to focus on the development of cognitive abilities, creativity, and essential skills. Curriculum is also delivered in a personalized way to meet students where they are and move them forward. Subject material is approached from an integrated perspective and hands-on activities are a part of many topics that are studied. Crest courses are designated on the transcript beginning with "W" in the course code.

College in the High School: Students in Humanities, AP Chemistry, AP Physics and AP Biology have the option of co-enrolling at Bellevue Community College for one or two 5 hour courses per year. Students in PreCalculus and Calculus can earn college credits through the University of Washington.

Tech Prep: Students in specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are able to earn college credit from community and technical colleges. Articulations are reviewed on a regular basis so courses meet current college expectations.

Transcript Markings

- "TR" from a course name indicates a transferred course, i.e. the students took the course at another school other than Mercer Island High School
- "CC" denotes Community College
- "Int" or "Web" denotes independent study via the internet. Additionally, some students take courses through approved agencies that offer instruction 1-1 or in small groups. These courses are designated with either "sm grp" or "indiv".
- Course designation markings in a separate column indicate Honors (H), AP®, College Course (C), Running Start® and Technical (T)